GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:904
ANSWERED ON:06.03.2002
SPREAD OF PLAGUE
AKBOR ALI KHANDOKER;YEMPARALA VENKATESWARA RAO

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the fresh spread of Plague in some parts of the country;

(b) if so, the number of persons died due to Plague in the country during the last six months, State-wise;

(c) whether Government have sent any experts to ascertain the exact causes of the diseases;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the preventive measures taken/being taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRI A. RAJA)

(a)&(b): Yes, Sir. Recently a focal outbreak, due to pneumonic plague, was reported from Hatkoti village of Jubbal-Kotkhai block, Shimla District, Himachal Pradesh.A total of 16 cases, including 4 deaths (two at P.G.I. Chandigarh and two at Civil Hospital, Rohru, Shimla) were reported during the outbreak. No other deaths due to Plague have been reported in the country during the last six months.

(c)&(d): After receiving the information from Himachal Pradesh Government, immediately a team from National Institute of Communicable Diseases, Delhi consisting of epidemiologist, microbiologist and entomologist visited the affected areas and investigated the outbreak. Another team consisting of six public health experts was sent to Chandigarh. The team visited the affected areas and examined the patients in Hospitals.

(e): The following steps were taken to contain the outbreak in co-ordination with the State Government:

1. Proper treatment of patients including isolation of cases in the hospitals,

2. Chemoprophylaxis to contacts, residents of affected and neighbouring villages, and to doctors, paramedical and health workers,

3. Fumigation by formalin (10%) in the affected villages as well as of the transport vehicles used for the cases.

4. IEC campaign focusing on restriction of mobility, immediate reporting to health facility in case of fever etc. and reassuring the public not to panic.

5. Door to door visits of population for education, institution of chemoprophylaxis and obtaining information about new cases.

6. Circulation of guidelines on prevention and control of plague to the States/U.Ts. adjoining Himachal Pradesh.

NICD teams are camping in the affected areas to assess the situation and co-ordinate with respective state health authorities for taking appropriate action.